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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Agir ensemble pour les droits de l'homme

Special, 1998

I. Introduction

Agir ensemble pour les droits de l'homme is a non-governmental organization (NGO) for international solidarity committed to protecting and promoting fundamental human rights. It supports projects in some 30 countries of the South and the East, primarily in Africa and Latin America but also in Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

A. Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's mandate consists of promoting the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other founding documents, such as the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the American Convention on Human Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Agir ensemble pour les droits de l'homme fosters the growth and development of community action groups or associations working to defend and promote civil and political rights. The organization provides these grass-roots associations with financial, material or technical support.

B. Significant changes in the organization

Amendments to the internal organizational rules, including: the composition of the board of directors; the procedures for membership; the time needed to convene meetings; and the availability of welfare funds.

II. Contribution to the activities of the United Nations

The primary objective of Agir ensemble pour les droits de l'homme is to support the efforts of grass-roots associations in countries of the South or East for the promotion and protection of human rights. The organization regularly circulates information on United Nations activities and resolutions to its partner associations in the field. Between 2006 and 2009, several articles on United Nations activities were published in the organization's monthly newsletter. Agir ensemble pour les droits de l'homme believes that it is making a modest contribution to the work of the United Nations by striving to act as a focal point between the United Nations and community-based associations.

A. Participation in the activities of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

From 2006 to 2009, Agir ensemble pour les droits de l'homme systematically appointed representatives who followed all sessions of the Human Rights Council. The organization helps the representatives of its partner associations in the field to participate in sessions of the Human Rights Council. The organization has also submitted several written statements and delivered a number of oral statements to the Human Rights Council.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Agir ensemble pour les droits de l'homme is focused on regular participation in the work of the Human Rights Council. The organization cooperates with some offices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. It has cooperated with the Special Rapporteurs of the United Nations on a number of occasions and, in 2008, brought a case before the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances concerning the disappearance of a Rwandan parliamentarian. Moreover, the organization is part of an international network of NGOs that issue urgent warnings in cases of individual human rights violations.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

While the organization has not developed specific initiatives with respect to the Millennium Development Goals, it has attached particular importance to the achievement of Goal 3 (promoting gender equality and empowering women) in its partnerships with community-based associations whose projects it supports. This includes providing material and financial support for a project to combat trafficking in women from Central and Eastern Europe for sexual exploitation; a project to combat female genital mutilation in Mali; and a project to promote the rights of Dalit women ("untouchables") in India.

2. Association européenne des cheminots

Special, 2002

I. Introduction

The Association européenne des cheminots, including the families of its members, comprises approximately 10,000 persons spread throughout 15 European Union countries.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Association is also represented at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, where it focuses on the work of the United Nations in the following four key areas:

the fight against poverty; the advancement of women worldwide; intercultural dialogue among civilizations; and the struggle for sustainable development.

II. Contribution to the activities of the United Nations

The organization participates in conferences and various meetings on the situation of women and closely follows the problems posed by intermodal transport in Europe. It also participates in the annual meetings of the Economic and Social Council held at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris. The Association holds statutory meetings and seminars at the initiative of national branches. Alongside other NGOs, it has participated in a campaign to protect the rights of the Roma population throughout the world, and particularly in Europe, under the patronage of the Council. The Association has also participated in the Support Committee to the North-South Dialogue with a view to building bonds of trust and mutual assistance with non-European Mediterranean countries, particularly in the Maghreb and the Middle East, including projects to establish closer ties with North African countries. In 2008, the Association initiated contacts with representatives of railways in the Russian Federation. These contacts should be further developed.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

By enhancing the North-South dialogue between Europe and Africa, the Association's permanent delegation to the Council of Europe is also taking part in the collective effort to establish a more secure peace in the world. It has formulated several initiatives that have been taken up by the Rapporteurs. Its delegation to the Council of Europe participates intensively in all consultations and round tables on sustainable development issues.

3. Association pour la formation et l'insertion sociale de l'adolescent et de la femme

Special, 2002

I. Introduction

The Association pour la formation et l'insertion sociale de l'adolescent et de la femme participated in a joint project developed by several associations under the umbrella organization known as the Collective of Women's Advocacy Organizations in Cameroon. The MDG-themed project took place in 2006, 2007 and 2008 in Cameroon's main cities and in 10 of its regions. Its purpose was to build the capacity of women's networks.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Association pursues a number of objectives in the areas of education, training, awareness-raising and employment. Its aims are to educate, raise

awareness among and train young people and women in environmental protection, the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS and about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, crime and prostitution, in order to ensure full participation in the sustainable development process.

II. Contribution to the activities of the United Nations

With respect to the activities of the United Nations, the Association has commemorated International Women's Day by holding seminars, sporting events, parades and awareness-raising talks on health issues. It has also held several activities to celebrate various international days relevant to women and young people. Through the Collective, the organization has organized or participated in seminars in the following four areas: law (training and awareness-raising on women's fundamental rights); management, savings and credit; health and community development; and information and communications technologies.

A. Participation in the activities of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Financial difficulties are preventing the organization from attending meetings regularly. Nevertheless, it participated in the 2006, 2007 and 2008 sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, as well as sessions of the Annual Conference of the Department of Public Information for NGOs, such as the fifty-ninth conference on partnerships for human security and sustainable development.

B. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

On Rural Women's Day in 2009, the organization held a training session in Yaoundé on the conversion of plantains into flour, a small trade fair and a products sale. Other activities include the creation of a focus group to devise strategies for strengthening networks of women's associations, thereby enabling them to contribute more effectively to poverty reduction. The organization also held a seminar on harvest conservation and compost preparation, and a pledging conference to raise funds for associations that train women to manage microprojects in order to better combat poverty. The organization participates in various seminars, conferences and meetings with a view, inter alia, to improving maternal health, combating genital mutilation and providing care for children with chronic diseases.

4. Association pour la promotion de l'emploi et du logement

Special, 1998

I. Introduction

The Association pour la promotion de l'emploi et du logement (APEL) is an NGO that was established in 1972 by a group of Tunisian volunteers to provide

services in disadvantaged rural areas in forest and mountain regions of north-western Tunisia.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims of APEL are to contribute to integrated rural development (social and economic human rights) and to participate in national, regional and international efforts to achieve sustainable development. APEL is a field-based NGO that also provides training. It has a four-track strategy: field, training and education activities; information and communication; implementation of development projects; and organization of rural, integrated and sustainable grass-roots groups.

II. Contribution to the activities of the United Nations

APEL has taken part in a number of outreach and training seminars and workshops on global themes such as sustainable development, women, social and economic rights and political and democratic rights, in cooperation with the Tunis offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Information Centre, the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and with technical cooperation from a number of States.

A. Participation in the activities of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

- Seminar on citizens, civil society and reform of the public sector in the Arab region, in Beirut, 2006
- Meetings, contacts and sharing of experiences with NGO partners, in Mauritania and Morocco, 2006
- Training session on youth employment problems, in Turin, Italy, 2006
- Seminar on cooperation in Naples, Italy, 2006
- Fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York
- Training session on policies and good practices for professional training in Turin, 2008
- Workshop on the strategy for the promotion and sustainability of telecentres, in Mannheim, Germany, 2008
- Seminar on sensitization of European society to North-South relations, in Madrid, Spain, 2009.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

APEL is a member of the Global Environment Facility national steering committee. It has taken part in more than 15 meetings at which decisions were taken after consideration of the financial records of more than 39 projects. In association

with the Department of Public Information, APEL collaborated with the United Nations Information Centre in Tunis through field outreach visits to Tunisian NGOs, sessions to raise public awareness of United Nations matters, held at the Centre's headquarters in Tunis and/or at the APEL induction, training, documentation, study and research centre, situated in Tabarka, in north-western Tunisia. Training sessions financed and supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are also held at the induction centre. As a member of the Planetary Society of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), APEL has had the task of disseminating the culture of UNESCO to the beneficiaries of its projects.

5. Centre de recherches et de promotion pour la sauvegarde des sites et monuments historiques en Afrique

General, 1998

I. Introduction

The Centre de recherches et de promotion pour la sauvegarde des sites et monuments historiques en Afrique is an NGO of international scope. Its organizational structure comprises three head offices, in Senegal (Dakar), South Africa (Cape Town) and the United States (New York), eight African subregional offices and five continental representative bureaux.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Centre has more than 20 years of experience of participating in, coordinating and taking action on African policies for safeguarding movable and immovable cultural heritage as well as intangible heritage by assisting States members in establishing administrative structures for protecting and conserving heritage. It also provides assistance for the design and implementation of projects to safeguard historical sites and monuments across the five continents.

II. Contribution to the activities of the United Nations

In 2009, the Centre took part in the following meetings:

- Forty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development
- Fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women
- Forty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development.

A. Participation in the activities of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Centre took part in the meeting of NGOs in Doha in 2008.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Centre has official working and cooperation relationships with UNESCO, UNDP and FAO in the context of a biodiversity project launched in Ferlo, in northern Senegal, over an area of 50,000 hectares.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Our representatives and volunteers are active at the national and regional levels, take part in meetings and seminars and organize vocational training workshops on the conservation of historical sites and monuments and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

D. Additional information

The Centre celebrated the International Day of the World's Indigenous People in 2009. The Centre also celebrates and participates in World Habitat Day on 5 October each year.

6. Collectif sénégalais des Africaines pour la promotion de l'éducation relative à l'environnement

Special, 1998

I. Introduction

The membership of the Collectif sénégalais des Africaines pour la promotion de l'éducation relative à l'environnement consists primarily of women interested in environmental education and training in the interests of sustainable development. It coordinates the francophone network for the promotion of environmental education in West Africa. The Collectif is a member of a number of national and international groups and networks.

Aims and purposes of the organization

- To identify clearly Africa's environmental priorities
- To establish conditions for the effective participation of African populations, and of children in particular, in raising the human development index
- To prepare the young people of the continent for active solidarity and the battle for a more just and equitable world
- To mobilize Africans in general, and women teachers in particular, to promote environmental education
- To give pupils and the general public the knowledge and skills necessary for the identification and resolution of environmental problems.

II. Contribution to the activities of the United Nations

The organization's contributions relate primarily to:

- Preparation of the country reports submitted by Senegal to various United Nations bodies
- Online forums on gender, reform of the United Nations system, female genital mutilation in West Africa and water management
- Programmes to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Publicizing the campaign launched by the Secretary-General on 25 February 2008: UNiTE to end violence against women.

A. Participation in the activities of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

- Fifty-second and fifty-third sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women
- Durban Review Conference, Geneva, in 2009, on follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance
- Eighth Africa Regional Conference on Women, Banjul, in 2009, preparing for the 15-year review of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+15)
- Fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, at Copenhagen in 2009.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

- Celebration of World Environment Day in Dakar
- Celebration of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification in 2006, with the publication of a booklet of children's poems and drawings and organization of a forum in Dakar on the topic of waste management as a factor to fight desertification
- Organization of an awareness day for Dakar schools on climate change and the protection of coastal areas
- Celebration of World Habitat Day in October 2007.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Capacity-building for women at the grass-roots level, to teach them strategies to combat poverty through good environmental management. Implementation of a programme to prevent child abuse. Participation in the initiative for 16 days of activism against violence against women, in the spirit of the Secretary-General's

campaign to end violence against women and girls. Organization of activities to ensure a sustainable environment: a school competition on a number of themes relating to the environment and sustainable development, and teaching and awareness-raising brochures on environmental degradation.

7. Comité catholique contre la faim et pour le développement

Special, 1998

I. Introduction

The Comité catholique contre la faim et pour le développement (CCFD-Terre Solidaire) recognizes that human development is a prerequisite for combating hunger. It provides material and cultural resources to satisfy basic human needs. It works in partnership with civil society in 70 countries throughout the world.

A. Aims and purposes of the organization

CCFD-Terre Solidaire aims to combat poverty and hunger and to support agents of social change in developing countries. To achieve these objectives, CCFD-Terre Solidaire relies on three strategies: (a) international programmes; (b) education for development; and (c) advocacy for its partners in French, European and international forums.

B. Significant changes in the organization

The Comité catholique contre la faim et pour le développement has changed its name to CCFD-Terre Solidaire and expanded its membership beyond its original 25 church-affiliated organizations.

II. Contribution to the activities of the United Nations

CCFD-Terre Solidaire supports associations for refugees and displaced persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Kosovo and Chechnya (Russian Federation). The Comité also actively supports Roma associations in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania, the Russian Federation and Serbia, as well as in France. It supported the project Afrique Verte (a long-standing partner of CCFD-Terre Solidaire) in Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger, and finances the development and marketing of local grains. The Comité helps NGOs in Brazil and Indonesia to prepare technically and financially sound proposals.

A. Participation in the activities of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

CCFD-Terre Solidaire lobbied for the adoption of a resolution that would pave the way for an international arms trade treaty and attended the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Accra in 2008, with

a view to submitting proposals on trade as a tool for development, the protection of regional markets and sound agricultural policy. It attended the high-level conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), held in Rome in June 2008, to present its proposals for addressing the food crisis, including a global partnership on food security, as well as the 2008 session of the FAO Committee on World Food Security. CCFD-Terre Solidaire organized, jointly with Amnesty International and Oxfam International, a side event on the circulation of weapons and the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. At the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus (Doha Review Conference), held in 2008, CCFD-Terre Solidaire supported proposals on the regulation of tax evasion. It signed civil society position papers at the 2009 Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Doha.

B. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

To reduce extreme poverty and hunger. CCFD-Terre Solidaire has worked jointly with the Mouvement pour une alliance paysanne au Togo on two agricultural sector projects, both of which are expected to have a strong social and economic impact.

To achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people. CCFD-Terre Solidaire supports the Indian organization Creative Handicrafts to improve the living conditions of women in slum communities.

To promote gender equality and empower women. In cooperation with Indeso Mujer in Rosario, Argentina, CCFD-Terre Solidaire supports projects to recognize women's rights, prevent violence and improve living conditions.

8. Consortium d'appui aux actions pour la promotion et le développement de l'Afrique

Special, 2006

I. Introduction

The main objective of the Consortium d'appui aux actions pour la promotion et le développement de l'Afrique (CAPDA) is to improve the living conditions of the poor through the promotion of local development.

Aims and purposes of the organization

CAPDA aims to raise collective awareness among young people, women, craft workers and local communities about development in urban and rural areas through individual and group initiatives aimed at eradicating hunger and poverty. It offers support and guidance to young people experiencing financial hardship, and provides technical expertise and, where possible, financial assistance to those willing to help themselves by creating their own opportunities. CAPDA encourages people to

participate in development and establishes ties among target individuals and groups through collaboration, partnership and affiliation in order to achieve the organization's goals.

II. Contribution to the activities of the United Nations

CAPDA establishes teams of development promoters in rural areas to combat poverty through training and by building the capacities of rural women, associations and local communities. To this end, it helps to create enabling conditions for these vulnerable groups, in particular, young people, to gain access to the opportunities generated by globalization, including by giving villages access to information and communications technology.

A. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

CAPDA works with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

B. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

CAPDA has been involved in several initiatives in line with the Millennium Development Goals in Central Africa (Central African Republic, Chad and Gabon), including a project that helps beneficiaries (girls, boys and women) to learn to read and write in French and/or several local languages. The creation of mobile literacy centres has made it possible for this project to reach 20,000 people. Another project involves teaching members of rural organizations in 10 villages to perform mathematical calculations, manage their income, verify and monitor expenses in respect of income-generating activities and manage their household budget. CAPDA works to reduce illiteracy in Central Africa. It also seeks to reduce waterborne diseases by improving rural populations' access to water, training management committees with regard to water sources and setting up drinking water systems. In 2008, CAPDA established a thematic group entitled "Education, training and employment group" within the general coordination office.

C. Additional information

Our organization has not had an opportunity to participate in the activities of the Council and its subsidiary bodies. Instead, we have focused on local development and social awareness-raising.

9. Génération recherche action et formation pour l'environnement

Special, 2006

I. Introduction

The association Génération recherche action et formation pour l'environnement, which was established in 1995 and is headquartered in Rolle, Switzerland, participates in initiatives benefiting the populations of the South (particularly Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal).

A. Aims and purposes of the organization

The association establishes appropriate mechanisms to encourage and sustain the establishment of small- and medium-sized enterprises in various sectors of the informal economy (including trade, culture, livestock and handicrafts) in both rural and urban environments. To achieve its aims, the association largely makes use of microcredit and donations; for example, by providing water filters to villages cut off from transportation routes.

B. Significant changes in the organization

In Senegal, the $125,000 already invested in 2006 was doubled during the period 2006-2009. In Burkina Faso, total investments reached $75,000 by the end of 2009. In Côte d'Ivoire, owing to the political turmoil, an additional $10,000 was added to the $32,500 already invested in 2006. These investments had the greatest impact on rural development, particularly on the rehabilitation of natural resources. Moreover, as a result of this financial support, as well as the improved rainfall seen in Burkina Faso and Senegal since 2009, it has been possible to cultivate much of the land that had been abandoned because of salinity, thereby increasing grain and feed production.

II. Contribution to the activities of the United Nations

A. Participation in the activities of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Participation in the annual session of the Council, in Geneva, Switzerland, 2007; in the World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty, in Berne, 2008; and in the eighth and tenth sessions of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Apart from the association's regular interaction with the NGO Liaison Office at Geneva, local meetings are held in each country with representatives of the

United Nations system and UNDP in particular, given its involvement in managing the association's funding programme.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

At the close of the 2009 fiscal year, 2,195 microcredit loans had been arranged in Senegal, 267 in Burkina Faso and 111 in Côte d'Ivoire (note: before 2006, 5,508 microcredit loans had been granted and paid off). In Senegal, 3,200 hectares of land affected by salt water were rehabilitated and 1,400 hectares of such land were rehabilitated in Burkina Faso. Equipment to make drinking water safe was purchased, delivered to and installed in the Senegal river valley, where around 8,000 people were threatened by waterborne diseases. A microfinance project was also implemented to promote access to the economy for persons ineligible to apply for bank credit so that they could engage in income-generating activities, employment and training.